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THE
**Imperial Unity League
of Ottawa.**

Very soon after the issue of Circular No. 2 by the United Empire Association, its office bearers were made aware of the existence in Toronto of an incorporated body with a similar name. This Association is called the United Empire Loyalist Association and its secretary, Mr. William Hamilton Merritt, suggested that the Ottawa Society, being the younger, should change its name. After due consideration the Executive Committee, consisting of the office bearers and Council, recommended a change, and, at a meeting of the United Empire Association held on the 2nd February 1899, that body adopted the name of the Imperial Unity League of Ottawa. It is to be understood that the League is only a local organization, and that its principles do not differ very materially from those of the British Empire League.

The objects of the new Association remain substantially the same as those of the old. In the first Circular, issued in December 1896, these objects were defined, and it is well worthy of note that the first of them, the "Abolition of obnoxious treaty stipulations" has since been accomplished. In 1897 the Commercial Treaties of Great Britain with Belgium and Germany were denounced, and, on the 1st August 1898, their complete abrogation took place. At that date also the reduction of 25 p. c. on the duties, imposed on goods from the countries above named and others, became restricted to importations from the United Kingdom and certain of her Colonies. Very soon afterwards came the negotiations for the establishment of Imperial Penny Postage, which went into operation here last Christmas. For these three steps in the direction of Imperial Federation, the thanks of the members of this League are due to Mr. Henniker Heaton, the Hon. Mr. Mulock and the Government of Canada, which took the necessary action without being specially urged thereto by any of the Societies or Committees which have for object the institution of preferential trade, or the passing of measures for effecting the closer union, politically or otherwise, of the Countries of the Empire.

Under these circumstances it may seem uncalled for on the part of this League to attempt to indicate the manner in which any further advances

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 should be made towards Imperial Union. But as Mr. Chamberlain has said, "This is a creative time," and throughout the Empire there is at present a disposition to consider favourably any such suggestions. It may possibly be found that the steps above enumerated will involve sacrifices of revenue to an extent beyond those anticipated by the Government of Canada, especially since the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage has been followed by the reduction of the rate of postage within the Dominion. In such event this League would regard with favour the imposition of an *ad valorem* rate of duty on the free goods now being imported into Canada, excepting those which have been produced in any other part of the British Empire.

Among the measures for closer British Union which have been proposed at various times, and next to that of Imperial Penny Postage, the most important is without doubt, a System of submarine cables for the British Empire. Its advantages have been set forth by our distinguished fellow-townsmen Sir Sanford Fleming, K. C. M. G., etc., and most exhaustively discussed in a letter dated 28th October last to the Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, but it is too soon yet to look for any practical result. It is to be remembered that this proposal is new and much more general and extensive than the Pacific cable scheme. Negotiations are now in progress betwixt the Mother Country and certain of her colonies, regarding the proportion of the expense which each of them ought to bear in laying a Pacific Cable. But here, as in the general matter of Imperial Defence, the absence of a recognised basis upon which to apportion the contributions has been felt, and it is still doubtful as to whether an agreement can be reached. It is possible also that the Home Government may prefer Sir Sandford's newer and wider scheme and abandon the Pacific Cable negotiations. Should unfortunately both of these projects fail to find favour in England, it does not appear to this League that the all-British Scheme should therefore be deemed incapable of realisation. If all the self-governing Colonies were invited to embark in the enterprise, and its management left entirely in their hands it might be possible to carry it to a successful issue.

From Sir Sandford's explanations it appears that the cost of laying these submarine cables would average £241 sterling per knot, and that, if the main Intercolonial lines of 20,250 knots only are constructed, the cost would amount to £4,930,250, and certainly not exceed five millions sterling. To provide interest and sinking Fund on this capital an annual income of 4 p. c. or say £200,000 would be required, and to obtain this revenue from Colonial sources only, upon a basis of assessment which would recommend itself to the Colonial Governments concerned, is the problem to be solved. The plan most likely to obtain their approbation is that long ago proposed by Mr. Hofmeyer, of Cape Colony, to provide funds for Imperial Defence, and it would appear that a duty of one per cent. on the value of the goods imported from foreign Countries, would provide the revenue required for the establishment of a system of Intercolonial Cables. The following are approximatively the values of the imports in question :—

Into Canada.....	£12,500,000
do Australasia.....	6,750,000
do South Africa.....	1,000,000
Total.....	£20,250,000

Taking these roughly at twenty millions sterling, one per cent. would yield £200,000 or one million of dollars. The assessment thus levied upon each set of Colonies would be annually :—

From Canada.....	£125,000	=	\$625,000
From Australasia.....	67,500	=	339,500
From South Africa.....	10,000	=	50,000
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	£202,000	=	\$1,012,500

So far as the Australasian and South African Colonies are concerned, the sums here stated do not seem to be exorbitant. But in order to obtain their consent more readily to the proposal, an offer of *Intercolonial Free Trade* might be combined with it. The abolition of all tariffs between the British self governing Colonies is not likely to have any adverse influence on any of their industrial interests, and would of course increase the volume of trade between them.

To propose that Canada should raise \$625,000 annually for establishing a system of Intercolonial submarine cables may be regarded by some as asking her to make too great a sacrifice for the advancement of Imperial Unity. On the other hand it must be remembered that up to the present, her government has made no response to the urgent appeals made by Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Mr. Goschen and other members of the Imperial ministry that Canada should contribute to the Naval Defence of the Empire. Of course it can be justly said that these appeals really open up the whole question of Imperial Federation, and should have been accompanied by proposals from Lord Salisbury's Government as regards the basis of assessment, the representation to be allowed to the Colonies consequent upon their taxation, and, above all, the advantages to accrue to members of the federation beyond those granted to alien nations. Until a scheme embracing the whole matter has been proposed by the Home Government it is scarcely possible for Canada to do otherwise than ignore the appeals in question, which, after all, have been made in an irregular and unofficial way. At the same time, it is possible for Canada to show her readiness to shoulder her responsibilities in the matter of defence, and no better mode of doing this can be suggested than that Canada should take the lead in establishing a British Cable System. Such action would be of the greatest importance as regards Naval Defence for, as Sir Sandford Fleming writes :—" The projected system of all-British Cables "with its branches would thus doubly connect the following fortified and "garrisoned coaling stations, namely :—Hong Kong, Singapore, Trincomalee, "Colombo, Aden, Capetown, Simons Bay, St. Helena, Ascension, St. Lucia, "Jamaica, Bermuda, Halifax, Esquimalt, King Georges Sound, and Thurs- "day Island. The following defended ports would likewise be connected :— "Durban, Karachi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Rangoon, Adelaide, Mel- "bourne, Hobart, Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Townville. Auckland, "Wellington, Lyttletown, and Dunedin". From this point of view the amount of Canada's interest in the Cable Scheme, £125,000 annually, does not appear to be excessive, especially when it is considered that Australasia now contributes £126,000 and the Cape £30,000 annually to Naval Defence.

The objects mentioned in the foregoing are certainly sufficient to occupy the attention of the League for the present. This does not of course mean the abandonment of its various other objects as specified in former Circulars.

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